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Diligentia et Accuratio

DESERT EAGLE

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**Providing
life-saving
supplies
throughout
the AOR**



DESERT EAGLE

Volume 8, Issue 39

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Commentaries and warriors of the week are scheduled according to a squadron rotation. Unit commanders and first sergeants are the points of contact for submissions.

For more information, call 436-0107.



Staff Sgt. Lenita Robinson, medical laboratory technician assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Medical Group, scans units of blood so they can be tracked in the computer system here Sept. 13. The blood transshipment center is responsible for processing more than 1,200 units of blood weekly to provide to the entire area of responsibility along with 47 Department of Defense hospitals. Sergeant Robinson, a native of Sacramento, Calif., is deployed from Travis Air Force Base, Calif. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Darnell T. Cannady)

Defining risk

By Lt. Col. Jason Combs
379th Air Expeditionary Wing chief of safety

The operations tempo and the urgency of the mission in a deployed environment place Airmen under extreme stress. Work days and weeks are longer and everyone knows a lost sortie can have an enormous mission impact. So how is an Airman to know how much risk to take to accomplish the mission? The answer is most likely at your finger tips.

Air Force Instructions, major command instructions, local instructions, special instructions, rules of engagement and technical orders are a few examples of written guidance defining how much risk an individual or unit can accept. Commanders at all organizational levels use these documents to define the acceptable level of risk they are willing to let their organization(s) take.

Each document clearly outlines what individuals or units can and can't do as well as the waiver authority if a deviation

(increase in risk) is required. In a deployed environment this guidance is crucial to setting the baseline for combat operations.

The complexity of combat makes a baseline for Airmen and commanders essential to effective operations. Without a solid baseline, acceptable practices can easily shift, becoming ad-hoc and unsafe, threatening people, equipment and the mission. Although combat operations may require changes in procedures, the decision to deviate (accept more risk) must be made by the proper level of command. Unless delegated, this is not a decision an individual can make without leadership approval.

Risk acceptance is not a new or uncommon practice in military operations. In fact, it is at the very core of our combat operations.

Before a jet is launched a supervisor must sign it off as being flight worthy. By doing this, they approve (accept the risk) of any open write-ups or jet degradations.

The pilot in command then uses training and guidance to determine what systems

SEE RISK ON PAGE 3

Risk acceptance is not a new or uncommon practice in military operations. In fact, it is at the very core of our combat operations.

Lt. Col. Jason Combs, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing chief of safety



Commander's Action Line

- The Action Line is your direct link to Brig. Gen. Michael Moeller, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing commander.
- Use it if you have questions or comments about the base that couldn't be resolved by your chain of command or base agencies.
- Each question will be reviewed, answered and may be published on a case-by-case basis. E-mail 379aewactionline@auab.afcent.af.mil.

Joint unmanned aircraft system mission crosses Atlantic

By Master Sgt. Steven Goetsch
Air Combat Command Public
Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) – An Air Combat Command RQ-4A Global Hawk unmanned aircraft system from the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., made a trans-Atlantic flight Sept. 20 with the assistance of Navy officials.

The 19-hour flight from Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Md., to Southwest Asia had Air Force and Navy officials working together to save time and resources.

“The Navy has all of the supplies that we have, plus contracted support,” said Airman 1st Class Matthew Milles, an avionics specialist. “It’s a lot easier than just going to a remote location. Working hand in hand with the Navy moves the plane faster to the deployed location.”

The ability of the Air Force to coordinate and streamline UAS assets transfers directly to the warfighter on the ground.

“We flew out of Patuxent River, where we used the Navy asset ground segment to launch it out of there, and that’s the first time that’s been done,” said Tech. Sgt. Jason Jones, assigned to the 380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. “The aircraft has been on the ground about six hours, and we’re going to turn it for a (Global War on Terror) mission tonight and fly a full-schedule 24-hour mission.”

Going east over the Atlantic has its own significance and



A Global Hawk unmanned aircraft system from the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., made a trans-Atlantic flight Sept. 20 with the assistance of Navy officials. The 19-hour flight took off from Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Md., to Southwest Asia. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Miranda Moorer)

demonstrates how the Air Force is committed to providing global vigilance, reach and power in the future by exploring new options.

“Going this direction, specifically allows us to cut out a lot of different stops in a lot of different areas,” said Col. George Zaniewski, the ACC Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Division chief. “Overall, it gets the aircraft over into the area of responsibility much easier, and more importantly than that, it allows us to work with the Navy, who will be doing more and more in the Global Hawk environment.”

The flight from Patuxent River NAS is just the beginning of an increased relationship between the Air Force and Navy.

“Specifically for the Global Hawk, we are getting more and more into maritime environments, so we are going

to be able to work with the Navy much more than we ever have,” Colonel Zaniewski said.

This trans-Atlantic mission is also a step toward the chief of staff’s initiative to increase UAS capacity for the joint fight.

“What I hope for the future is that it becomes one common way ... that we work with all our sister services, to where we can streamline both the acquisition process, and also the operational process,” Colonel Zaniewski said.

Those differences in operations and procedures can be countered with professional UAS operators and precise planning.

“We are dealing with so many unknowns, but we have sharp guys and they made it happen,” said Maj. Alan Rabb, the ACC current operations chief.

“It was a great experience here. I am so used to working with the Navy, where with the Air

Force it was the first time,” said Bobby Oshner, a Patuxent River Navy Global Hawk contractor. “They looked like professional people who really knew what they were doing.”

There are certain hurdles that come with working with another service, but those were evaluated and turned into learning opportunities.

“There is a bit of a different language and different process, but overall we are still the same airframe,” said Navy Lt. Cmdr. John Tracey, the Naval Global Hawk project officer. “We are kind of the smaller, kid brother of the Global Hawk community, so it’s nice to work with everybody else.”

The Patuxent River NAS mission was a win-win for the Air Force as well as the Navy, but with joint operations like these, the real winner is the warfighter.

“It helps to rotate these systems out so they have fresh aircraft. They are flying combat missions daily and you want the best product out there,” Commander Tracey said.

Joint operations not only have an effect on the logistics of the UAS mission, but it also has the UAS community excited about their future.

“The impact is going to be really huge. What we are doing here is really ground-breaking,” Major Rabb said. “We have opened the door to not only a different aspect of joint ops, but also joint ops relative to unmanned aircraft.”

FROM RISK ON PAGE 2

degradation he or she can accept. When in doubt or the risk exceeds written guidance, the pilot queries the “top 3” or other squadron commander representative to get approval to accept the deviation.

These decisions balancing risk and mission continue throughout the entire air tasking order sortie to include the final seconds prior to weapons release. During these last moments, the aircrew and joint terminal air controller determine the best

way to deliver a weapon while minimizing risk to ground parties. These decisions are based on special instructions and ROE defining what level of risk the commander has authorized aircrew and JTACs to take. Without adhering to the guidance in these, the results could be catastrophic.

The answer then to the question of how much risk should an Airman take to accomplish the mission is easily answered. The risk level has already been defined

and engrained in the training that prepared them for combat operations. This training reinforced not only skill sets, but AFIs and other guiding documents. The key is knowing and adhering to the guidance.

If a situation arises where the guidance does not fit, ask the proper level of command for clarification. This is critical to maintaining and applying the wing’s awesome combat power at a moments notice.

379 EMDG, volunteers expedite d

Story by Senior Airman Clinton Atkins
Photos by Staff. Sgt. Darnell T. Cannady
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

A horde of volunteers stand waiting at the mercy of the flight. With great anxiety, the clock ticks and with each moments delay is a potential loss of life. The shipment finally arrives, sending the group of strangers, now united by a single purpose, into a frenzy shrouded by the fog from dry ice.

The 379th Expeditionary Medical Group Blood Transshipment Center here is the sole purveyor of donor blood to the entire area of responsibility. The center relies heavily on volunteers in order to rapidly facilitate the shipment of these life-saving supplies.

"What we do here is very important to our warriors," said Capt. Jerome Vinluan, BTC chief deployed from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. "We are providing a life-saving service to the troops. Whenever there's an [improvised explosive device] or trauma victim out there, it's these blood resources coming from the states that are saving their lives. We provide that blood and we are the life line to those folks."

The BTC's impact encompasses all sister services and Coalition partners.

"This blood is a joint asset," he said. "It doesn't matter if you're Army, Air Force, Navy or Marine (or a Coalition partner)."

The BTC services 42 U.S. Armed

What we do here is very important to our warriors. We are providing a life saving-service to the troops. Whenever there's an [improvised explosive device] or trauma victim out there, it's these blood resources coming from the states that are saving their lives. We provide that blood and we are the life line to those folks.

Capt. Jerome Vinluan, 379th Medical Group
Blood Transshipment Center chief

Forces medical treatment facilities and five Coalition Forces hospitals within the area of responsibility, which have an insatiable need for this gift of life.

"This is a very rewarding experience for me and my staff. When we're in the states we do normal health care on a daily basis," said Capt. Vinluan, from San Diego, Calif. "But when we get the opportunity to directly impact our fellow Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines when they're hurt it's gratifying to know we are making a difference in saving these heroes' lives. This is an opportunity of a lifetime."

There are only five personnel assigned

to the BTC, hence the need for volunteers. During any given week, an average of 30 selfless servicemembers help inventory and expedite the shipment of more than 1,200 units of blood, worth roughly \$250,000, Captain Vinluan said.

"If it was just the five of us it would take a substantially longer time and we'd miss out on opportune flights," he said. "(The volunteers) provide an invaluable service. Most people are excited about helping, because it's doing something different and it's for a good cause. They're happy; we're happy, so it's a win-win situation."

The volunteers lend their time for different reasons, but most of them have discovered a profound purpose during their continued service.

"This is one of the (most important missions) I have ever been involved with in the military," said Tech. Sgt. Justin Blackwell, a four-time volunteer deployed from Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

At first, it was just another volunteer opportunity, but now there is a great sense of pride involved, said the Plymouth, Minn., native.

Several rows of boxes filled with frozen blood products and refrigerated red blood cells must be inventoried and repackaged with fresh dry ice for disbursement to the individual medical treatment facilities. The process recently switched to a night-time operation.

"We want to turn it around as fast as possible," Captain Vinluan said. "We could wait until the day time, but we would lose precious time. We meet the blood coming off the plane much like how (Personnel Support for Contingency Operations) staff greets our new (Air and Space Expeditionary Force) warriors.



Staff Sgts. Lenita Robinson (right) and Staff Sgt. Sabastian Sanchez, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group medical laboratory technicians, scan units of blood into the computer system here Sept. 13. The blood transshipment center is responsible for processing more than 1,200 units of blood worth approximately \$250,000 weekly, which are distributed to the entire area of responsibility. Sergeant Robinson is a native of Sacramento, Calif., and Sergeant Sanchez is a native of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Both are deployed from Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

honor blood shipments, save lives



LEFT: Staff Sgt. David Tripp, 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron utilities technician, puts dry ice into a plasma container while verifying the manifest matches the information on the plasma at the blood transshipment center here Sept. 13. On average, 30 servicemembers sacrifice their sleep to volunteer late at night at the BTC. Sergeant Tripp, a native of New Castle, Va., is deployed from Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

BELOW: Airman 1st Class Deitric Thompson (left), 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, verifies that the manifest on the plasma matches the box manifest checked by Master Sgt. Blenda Mease, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, at the Blood Transshipment Center here Sept. 13. The blood transshipment center delivers blood to 42 U.S. Armed Forces medical treatment facilities and five Coalition hospitals. Airman Thompson, a native of Memphis, Tenn., is deployed from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and Sergeant Mease, a native of Los Angeles, Calif., is deployed from Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

"We recently went to a night shift, because we found it cuts 18 hours off of the delivery time," he said. "Eighteen hours is a lot of time when you are trying to save lives. Medical commanders throughout the AOR can't accomplish their mission without this blood. The sooner we can get the blood there the better."

The 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron also plays an integral part in the life-saving process.

"Blood is a high priority and the (8 EAMS) is very supportive of what we do," Captain Vinluan said. "We couldn't get our mission done without those aircraft."

Shipping blood is a never-ending team effort, but it all hinges on the homefront endeavors.

"Any chance you get, we highly encourage you to donate blood," he said. "It's a way to directly save someone's life. We get to see the final product out here and we're able to make a difference because of the people who donated their blood."



AND THE SURVEY SAYS ...

By Master Sgt. Jeff Loftin
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

The Desert Eagle and Desert Eagle Dispatch fared well in a recent 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs survey of base members.

The survey, which ran for 10 days at the end of last month and garnered more than 170 responses, measured various public information products.

"The demographic was a broad spectrum of the base," said Senior Master Sgt. Chad Eiring, PA superintendent, responsible for the survey. "We had responses from all ranks, all ages and all units."

According to the responses, most people, 56 percent, are reading the "Desert Eagle" magazine weekly. Forty-eight percent said they were "very satisfied" with the publication. Only 1 percent of those who responded were dissatisfied with it.

"This is good news," said Col. Paul Guemmer, 379 AEW vice commander. "I've been to lots of bases where people didn't even look at the base publication."

The colonel said the magazine was about the right length and could be read through by most people in less than an hour.

"The boss and I like having the printed product," he said of the AOR's only publication of its kind. "I think it makes more of an impact. You have nice flashy colors to catch people's attention. (PA does) a great job on the layout. Also, we have a very large transient population that isn't going to have access to a computer."

Survey responses indicated readers were most satisfied with the publication's feature stories, and were least satisfied with

the crossword puzzle. As a result, the crossword puzzle will now be part of a six-week rotation with sudoku, schedules and other columns. The chapel page will also be re-

The survey pointed out that many confused the wing's public website with the base's internal site. The internal site features the media web, phone book and other links and is maintained by the 379th Expeditionary Communications Squadron.

The public website,
www.379aew.af.mil,

afnews.af.mil, features news, photos, videos, biographies and fact sheets.

"The public website is our number one strategic communication tool,"

said Capt. Kristen Pate, 379 AEW public affairs officer. "We take a lot of pride in our website and work a lot of long hours on it. We make a conscious effort to update it everyday to get our story out.

"Sometimes people will come to us and say, 'I want to tell my family back home what I'm doing here. Do you have something I can send them?' I always send them the link to the public website because it changes everyday and there's a good chance your unit will be highlighted," she said.

The most dramatic changes came from the PA product that survey responders were most dissatisfied with – the commander's access channel (channel 1). As a result, the wing is reviewing the possibility of combining the CAC with the 379th Expeditionary Forces Squadron channel (channel 2) and the passenger information channel (channel 3).

"I think if we can create some synergy and combine the channels it will be better than splitting audience attention between several channels," said Colonel Guemmer. "There would be more information there to compel people to watch it."

Overall the survey provided information for changes to several products.

"I'm really satisfied with the information we received," said Captain Pate, deployed from Hickam AFB, Hawaii. "We can now tailor our efforts to get information to the public in the ways they would most like to receive it."



vamped to make it more relevant.

According to the survey, people were most satisfied with the "Desert Eagle Dispatch," a daily e-mail product. Fifty-eight percent said they were "very satisfied" with it, and 81 percent said they read it daily.

"This was something we focused on," said Sergeant Eiring, deployed from Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. "That makes the Dispatch one of our most valuable internal communication tools."

"I'm really satisfied with the information we received. We can now tailor our efforts to get information to the public in the ways they would most like to receive it."

Capt. Kristen Pate, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Officer

week maximum run time. If someone wants something posted we're only going to run it for one week. So far that has helped cut down on the length."

PA is also now highlighting new items in red to assist those skimming through the Dispatch quickly. Also, the Dispatch now features the photo of the day and links to any new print or video stories on the public website.

Staff Sgt. Edwin Amos

816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron
C-17 Loadmaster

Hometown: Bend, Ore.

Home station: Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

Arrived in AOR: August

Deployment goals: Finish up two classes for my bachelor's degree, join the 400 bench club at the gym and read several books I have been putting off.

Best part of the deployment: The challenge of flying into the different airfields.

Hobbies: Reading, biking, rock climbing and camping.

Best Air Force memory: All the different countries and people throughout the world I've been able to experience.

Nominated by Lt. Col. John Lamontagne. "Sergeant Amos was instrumental in the pre-deployment phase of the 816th. He coordinated shipment of flight gear and aircrew life support equipment worth \$584,000, allowing Air Mobility Command to have operational C-17 aircrews within 24 hours of arrival. In the first three weeks of our deployment he airlifted 500,000 pounds of cargo and 77 passengers."



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. MICHAEL BOQUETTE

Army Sergeant Robert Hill

7th Expeditionary Air Combat and Control Squadron
Airborne Targeting Surveillance Supervisor

Hometown: Brant Lake, N.Y.

Home unit: Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Arrived in AOR: May

Deployment goals: Provide the best support possible to my fellow Soldiers and Coalition Forces.

Best part of the deployment: Working with a sister service seeing different leadership styles and how the Air Force conducts business.

Hobbies: Spending time with my wife and son, and just about anything nature related.

Best Army memory: When deployed to Iraq on my 21st birthday my unit surprised me with a makeshift MRE cake with frosting made from the cocoa mix. *Nominated by Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Nagy. "Sergeant Hill has accepted every challenge with enthusiasm and professionalism. He always strives to be a positive role model and NCO that all Soldiers and Airmen can emulate."*



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DARNELL CANNADY

Master Sgt. Mandy Midgett

1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group
NCO in charge, Air Transportation

Hometown: Ft. Worth, Texas

Home station: Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Arrived in AOR: March

Deployment goals: Become a better runner.

Best part of the deployment: Getting people on planes to go home.

Hobbies: Running, swimming, cycling, weightlifting and spending time with family and friends.

Best Air Force memory: Making master sergeant.

Nominated by Maj. Steve Blake. "The RED HORSE aerial transporter brings mobility to our mission set. Sergeant Midgett is the point for preparing and moving our 560-man team throughout the area of responsibility. She forward deploys equipment, vehicles and construction material to the far reaches of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Without our transporter, we could not execute projects at 14 sites in three countries."



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DARNELL CANNADY

379 AEW assets enable Navy

By Capt. Kristen Pate
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

As darkness closes in around an aircraft carrier in the middle of the Gulf of Oman, pilots taxi their F-18s a short distance to the catapult to be launched down a mere 300 foot runway at 160 knots, knowing Airmen from the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing will be there waiting in the skies over Afghanistan to provide mission-essential support.

The USS Ronald Reagan recently replaced the USS Abraham Lincoln and began flying sorties in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Aug. 28 as part of a six month deployment. Eight squadrons comprise the embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 14, which flies approximately two to three dozen missions daily in support of operations in theater.

While for the most part the USS Ronald Reagan is a self-sustaining, floating city, it relies on continuous support in order to carry out its mission. CVW 14 assets regularly interface with Air Force assets, but none are quite as important as the KC-135 Stratotanker from the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron here.

“Our operations in Afghanistan would not be possible without the air refueling capability provided by the 379 AEW and the other strategic tankers in theater,” said Navy Capt. Tom “Walli” Lator, CVW 14 commander. “Whenever we need to support ground forces in a defensive situation, the KC-135s have always been right there in the thick of it, quickly providing us the fuel necessary to maintain fighter cover over the troops in contact.”



An F/A-18C Hornet assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 113 refuels from a KC-135R Stratotanker while two F/A-18E Super Hornets assigned to VFA 115 fly alongside during flight operations above Afghanistan Aug. 28, 2008. VFA 113 and VFA 115 are attached to Carrier Air Wing 14 aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). KC-135 aircraft from the 340 EARS provide critical air refueling capability to air assets on the USS Ronald Reagan. (DoD photo by Cmdr. Erik Etz, U.S. Navy)

CVW 14 aircraft are a mix of F/A-18C Hornets, F/A-18Es, F/A-18F Super Hornets, EA-6B Prowlers and E-2C Hawkeyes. The F-18s are responsible for flying close air support sorties, while the Prowlers are responsible for electronic warfare and the Hawkeyes provide airborne command and control.

“The Hornet, Super Hornets and Prowl-

ers will tank upwards of three separate times off of 379 AEW tankers,” said Cmdr. James “Marvin” Haigler, CVW 14 operations officer. “This support is absolutely critical to what we do. We provide close air support, non-traditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and armed overwatch for convoys. Our pilots are saving lives out there and in order to keep them in theater long enough to accomplish their mission, we have to have the capability to refuel.”

The more than 50-year-old KC-135, along with the KC-10 Extender, changed the way wars were fought, allowing U.S. forces to bring the fight to enemy territory for extended periods of time. Having military assets forward deployed provides a key capability for commanders by minimizing response time to any contingency. While the Air Force is the primary provider for air refueling capabilities, it is not the only customer.

“We provide fuel to pretty much anyone who needs it,” said Master Sergeant Jeff Bishop, 340 EARS chief boom operator. “It doesn’t matter if they’re Air Force or Navy, U.S. or NATO, we can provide numerous customers with the same key capability. It seems like such a basic thing, but when



ops off the coast of Pakistan



ABOVE: Two SH-60 Sea Hawk helicopters deliver pallets of supplies to the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan from the Military Sealift Command fast combat support ship USNS Bridge during a replenishment at sea in the Pacific Ocean. The Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group is currently on a scheduled deployment operating in the Gulf of Oman. Air assets on board fly continuous missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, all made possible by air refueling provided by the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron here. (U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Spike Call)

BOTTOM LEFT: An F/A-18C Hornet from the "Fist of the Fleet" Strike Fighter Squadron 25 launches off catapult four recently. This launch was the last waist catapult launch of the last daylight cycle prior to the beginning of night operations. These F-18s typically require an average of three separate air refueling sessions, all accomplished by KC-135s assigned to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing. The USS Ronald Reagan is currently deployed to the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. Fifth Fleet, area of responsibility. Operations in the AOR are focused on reassuring regional partners of the United States' commitment to security, which promotes stability and global prosperity. All of this is made possible by the continuous cooperation among sister services. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Gary Prill, Navy Visual News Service)

it comes down to it, you can't accomplish anything if you don't have the gas it takes to get it done."

Airmen and Sailors alike realize the strategic importance of cooperation among the two services, especially with regards to air refueling capabilities provided for critical OEF missions.

"Basically our only limiting factor is that of the human body," said Commander Haigler. "Our pilots can only stay in the air for so long but, with the capability provided by aerial refueling we could essential fly continuously for an undetermined amount of time."

During the Air Expeditionary Force

3/4 rotation, from May to August, the 340 EARS was responsible for refueling 12,000 receivers, offloading more than 130 million pounds of fuel.

"We operate around-the-clock here for the most part," Sergeant Bishop said. "It's a very rewarding mission and we're all proud to do what we do. Knowing we have such an important impact for so many different people makes all the long hours worthwhile. We have a great appreciation for what the other services do and we work really well with our Navy counterparts."

The USS Ronald Reagan is the largest and newest Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, operating the most advanced

technology of its kind. By itself, the carrier brings a tremendous amount of power to the fight, which is multiplied by working hand-in-hand with other military forces.

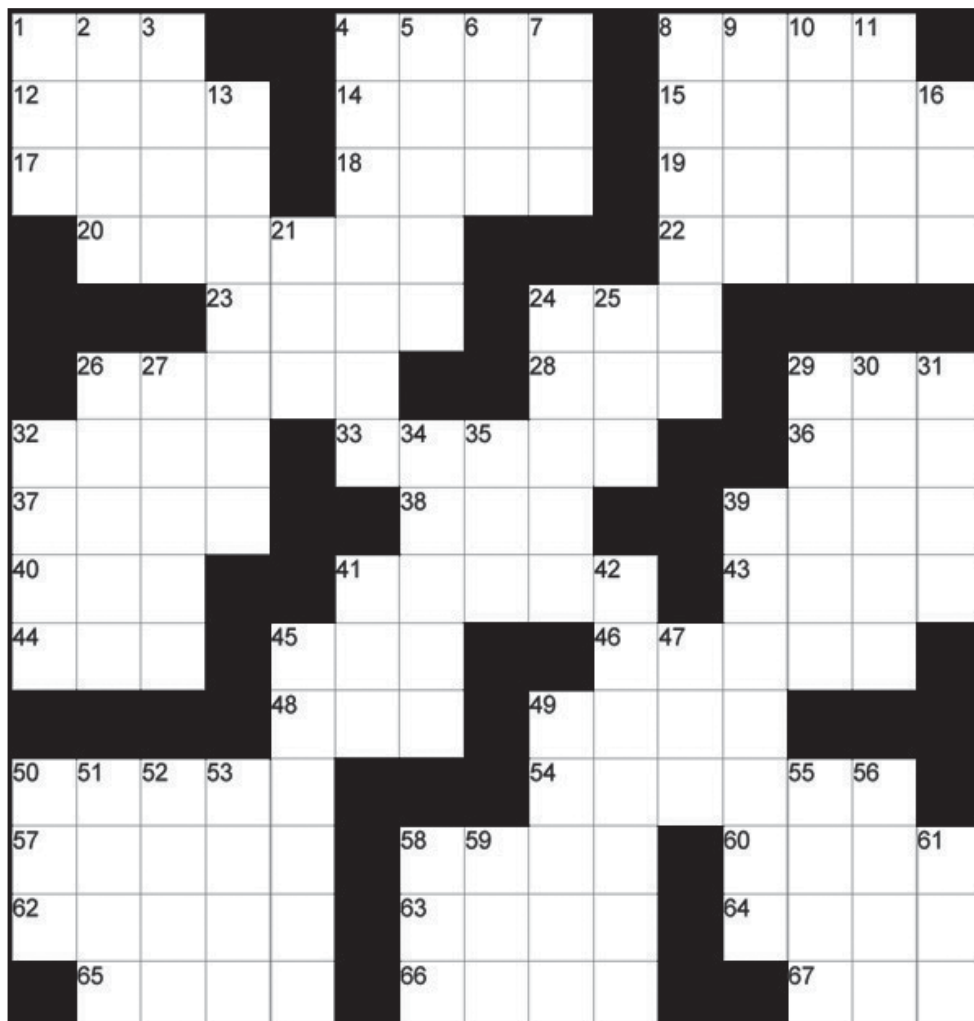
"Back in the mid 80's when I first went through flight school, the Navy and Air Force hardly ever worked together, and our tactics, techniques, even our vocabularies were completely different," Captain Lalor said. "So much has changed in two decades. Young Navy pilots today train alongside Air Force pilots. We learn the same tactics that our Air Force counterparts employ. We speak the same language and each has a professional admiration for the strengths and capabilities the other brings to the table."

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

By Capt. Tony Wickman
USAFE Public Affairs

ACROSS

1. Delirious
4. ___ Buy Me Love
8. America's ___ Wanted
12. Oil cartel
14. Away from the wind
15. Visible
17. Site of a leaning tower
18. Make an election decision
19. Oscar winner Zellweger
20. Title for USAF member
22. Terminated
23. Leak
24. Adult male
26. Brooch
28. Overseas mil. Address starter
29. U.S. retail pharmacy chain
32. Commanded
33. Strike down
36. Have pain
37. Dry
38. Bullring cheer
39. Civil right org.
40. Company head, in brief
41. Miriam ___; famous Puerto Rican actress
43. Saga
44. Billboards
45. Auto
46. Severo ___; Hispanic-American Nobel prize winning physician
48. Map road, in brief
49. Assert
50. Words spoken so as not to be heard by others present
54. Watch out
57. Capt Euripides ___; Hispanic-American Medal of Honor recipient
58. Skin or rind of certain fruits and vegetables
60. John ___; first-ever Hispanic heavyweight champion
62. Pilot program
63. Exam type
64. Wear down
65. ___ quam videri; N.C. motto
66. Brief recording illustrating the abilities of a musician
67. Actor Beatty



1. Swab the deck
2. Capital of Western Samoa
3. Cuban-American TV icon Arnaz
4. Richard E. ___; U.S. Army's first Hispanic four-star general
5. Isolated
6. NJ player
7. Golf prop
8. Oscar winning Puerto Rican actress, dancer, singer Rita
9. Kitchen appliance
10. Transmit
11. Elm or oak
13. Bounced
16. Mass. Senator Kennedy
21. Homer's bartender
24. Fernando ___; Mexican-American who created "Toys for Guns" program in L.A.
25. Mock
26. Had thoughts or regard for another
27. Goodbye in the barrio
29. Chocolate source
30. Mexican icon Pancho
31. Turn on an axis; rotate
32. Spec4 John ___; Hispanic-American Medal of Honor

- recipient
34. James Bond portrayer
35. Sick
39. From side to side; crosswise
41. Feline
42. Antonia Coello ___; first

- Hispanic-American female
- U.S. Surgeon General
45. West Indies or Spanish America person
47. Milk producer
49. At right angles to the fore-

Last week's answers



FROM PUZZLE ON PAGE 10

and-aft line	55. Derail
50. Pop or deco	56. Ireland, formerly
51. Convinced	58. School of marine mammals
52. Large wading bird	59. Before, poetically
53. PFC Ralph ____; Hispanic-American Medal of Honor recipient	61. 26th letter of the Roman alphabet

Share-a-ride

Everyone is reminded that the base has a mandatory Share-a-ride Program for all passenger vehicles assigned to units.

Please take the time to offer a ride to those waiting for transportation to and from work areas across the base.

This week in Air Force history

Sept. 21, 1938 – Maj. Gen. Oscar Westover, the Chief of the U.S. Army Air Corps, died in an airplane crash at Lockheed Airport, Burbank, Calif.

Sept. 22, 1950 – With North Korean resistance crumbling along the Pusan perimeter, Lt. George W. Nelson, a T-6 Mosquito pilot, dropped a note to 200 enemy troops near Kunsan demanding their surrender. They moved to a designated hill and were captured by nearby U.N ground troops.

Sept. 23, 1944 – Twenty-four B-25s from the 340th Bomb Group, Twelfth Air Force, bombed and sank the light cruiser Taranto in La Spezia Harbor, Italy.

Sept. 24, 1919 – An altitude record of 30,900 feet is set for an airplane carrying a passenger.

Sept. 25, 1947 – Gen. Carl Spaatz is appointed the first U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff.

Sept. 26, 1918 – From this date, Air Service pilots shot down 74 German aircraft and 15 balloons through Oct. 1.

Sept. 27, 1991 – President George H. W. Bush terminated Strategic Air Command's alert force operations, which started operating in October 1957. This action heralded an end to the Cold War.

This Week's Caption Contest



Photo No. 94

The winner is...

"I told you to get to the PAX terminal early so we could get good seats, but no, you just had to stop off at the grab and go!"

- Jerry Owens, 379th Expeditionary Medical Group

Honorable mention:

"How long is this flight? I'm tired of holding these parts on."

- Staff Sgt. Darnell Cannady,
379th Air Expeditionary Wing

Try your hand at writing a caption for this week's photo. The author whose caption entry gets the most laughs - or groans - from our panel wins.

1. Write an imaginative, humorous, printable caption related to the Air Force.
2. E-mail caption entries to 379AEW.PA@auab.afcent.af.mil with the words 'Caption Contest' in the subject header.
3. Include the Caption Contest photo number you are referencing, your name, rank, deployed unit and phone number.
4. Winners are announced in the following paper.
5. Deadline for submission is noon Wednesday.
6. Got a funny photo you think is publishable and will make people laugh and scratch their heads? E-mail us!



Photo No. 95



Maj. Louise Shumate, 379th Expeditionary Comptroller Squadron commander, paints around fixtures during a renovation effort in a latrine facility here Sept. 21. Maj. Shumate volunteered her day off to help thoroughly clean, scrape, sand and paint the restroom facility as part of a cleanup operation. Maj. Shumate hails from Crestview, Fla. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Boquette)

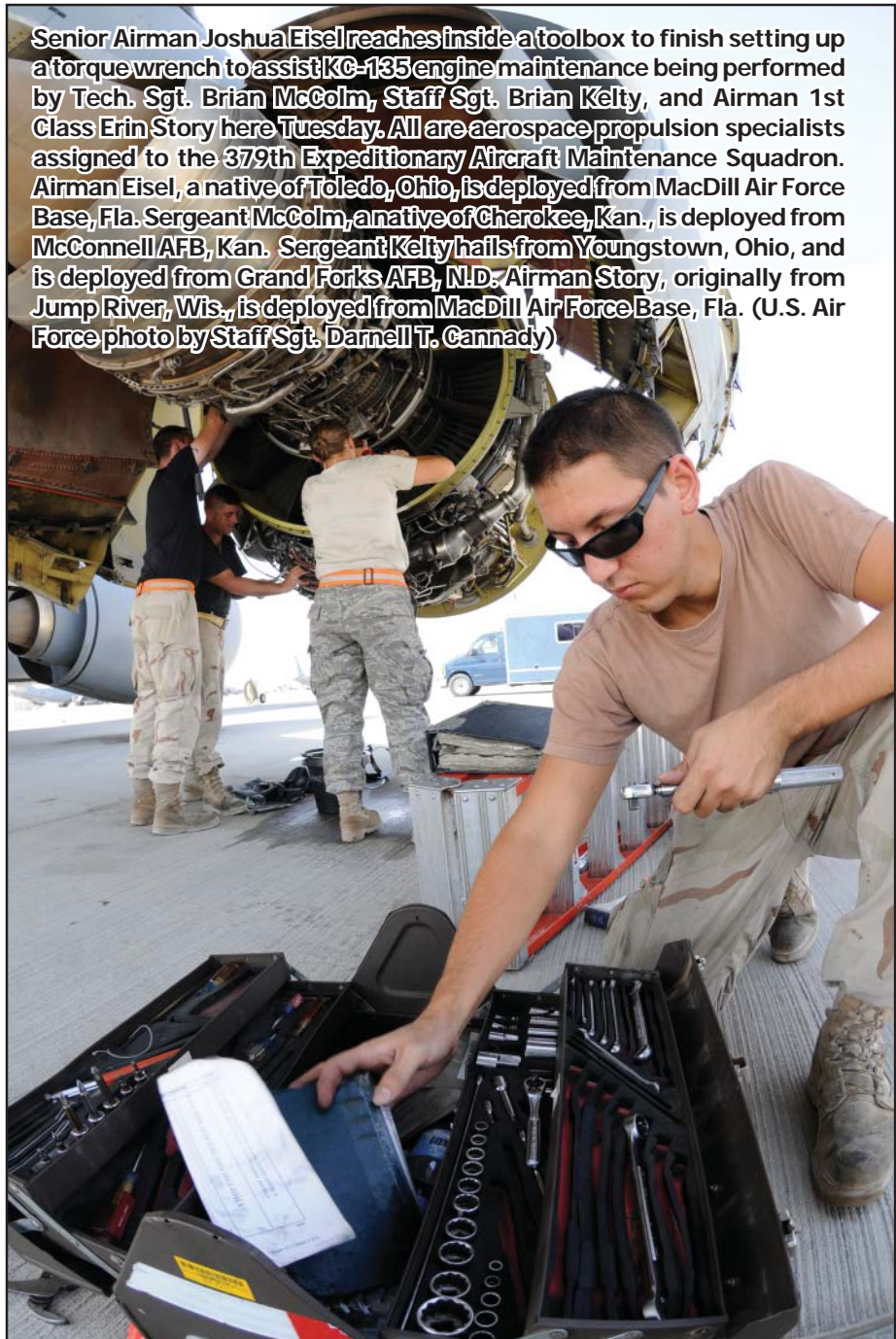


Senior Airman Michael Renteria and Staff Sgt. Benjamin Thomas, patrolmen assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, verify an alarm system is working properly here Sept. 24. Patrolmen assigned to the ESFS ensure the safety and security of resources and personnel assigned here supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. Airman Renteria, a native of Deming, N.M., is deployed from Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., and Sergeant Thomas, a native of Mehoopany, Pa., is deployed from Keesler AFB, Miss. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Darnell T. Cannady)



Senior Airman Jason Freytag and Senior Airman Antonio Santos-Torres, lower the flag while Staff Sgt. LaCourtney Jones renders a salute during retreat here Sept. 19. All are assigned to 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group. Everyday, the 1 ERHG raises and lowers the flag in front of their compound for reveille and retreat. Airman Freytag, a native of Temple, Texas, Airman Santos-Torres, a native of Ponce, Puerto Rico, and Sergeant Jones, a native of Augusta, Ga., are all deployed from Hurlburt Field, Fla. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Darnell T. Cannady)

Senior Airman Joshua Eisel reaches inside a toolbox to finish setting up a torque wrench to assist KC-135 engine maintenance being performed by Tech. Sgt. Brian McColm, Staff Sgt. Brian Kelty, and Airman 1st Class Erin Story here Tuesday. All are aerospace propulsion specialists assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Airman Eisel, a native of Toledo, Ohio, is deployed from MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Sergeant McColm, a native of Cherokee, Kan., is deployed from McConnell AFB, Kan. Sergeant Kelty hails from Youngstown, Ohio, and is deployed from Grand Forks AFB, N.D. Airman Story, originally from Jump River, Wis., is deployed from MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Darnell T. Cannady)



Tech. Sgt. Neil Cook, 34th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, uses calipers to check the tolerance on a control valve on a B-1B Lancer here Sept. 19. The B-1 is the backbone of America's long-range bomber force. It can rapidly deliver massive quantities of precision and non-precision weapons against any adversary, anywhere in the world, at any time. Sergeant Cook is a native of Rapid City, S.D., and is deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Boquette)





All programs and times are subject to change. Chapel office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. For more information or to make a facility request call the chapel at 437-8811.

Monday

5-6 a.m. Prayer Warriors, sanctuary
7:15-7:45 a.m. Daily Mass, Blessed Sacrament Room
11-11:30 a.m. Redeployment brief (or online), Conference Room
5:30-6 p.m. Rosary/individual devotion, BSR
5:30-6:30 p.m. Intercessory prayer/Prayer Warriors, Multipurpose Room
6-6:30 p.m. Daily Mass, BSR
6:30-8 p.m. Traditional service Bible study, Conf. Rm.
7-9:30 p.m. Gospel service musician rehearsal, sanctuary
7:30-9 p.m. Women of Virtue, MPR

Tuesday

5-6 a.m. Prayer Warriors, sanctuary
7:15-7:45 a.m. Daily Mass, BSR
7:45-9:45 a.m. Financial Peace University, sanctuary
8-8:30 a.m. Morning prayer, MPR
9:30-10:30 a.m. CGO chaplain meeting, Conf. Rm.
11-11:30 a.m. Redeployment brief (or online), Conf. Rm.
Noon-1 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, MPR
5:30-6 p.m. Rosary/individual devotion, BSR
5:30-6:30 p.m. Intercessory prayer/Prayer Warriors, Conf. Rm.
6-6:30 p.m. Daily Mass, BSR
6-7 p.m. Church of Christ Bible study, MPR
7:30-9 p.m. Men of Integrity Bible study, MPR
7:30-9 p.m. Christian Fellowship (Every other Tuesday), Conf. Rm.
7:30-9 p.m. Gospel Choir/Praise Team rehearsal, sanctuary

9-11 p.m. Gospel service dance team rehearsal, sanctuary

Wednesday

5-6 a.m. Prayer Warriors, sanctuary
7:15-7:45 a.m. Daily Mass, BSR
9:30-11:30 a.m. Catholic choir practice, sanctuary
11-11:30 a.m. Redeployment brief (or online), Conf. Rm.
2-3 p.m. Chapel staff meeting, Conf. Rm.
5:30-6 p.m. Rosary/individual devotion, BSR
5:30-6:30 p.m. Gospel service dance team rehearsal, sanctuary
5:30-6:30 p.m. Intercessory prayer/Prayer Warriors, MPR
6-6:30 p.m. Daily Mass, BSR
6:30-8 p.m. LDS Priesthood/Relief Society, MPR
7-9 p.m. Contemporary band practice, sanctuary
7:30-8:45 p.m. Gospel service "Fireproof" Bible study, Conf. Rm.
8-9:30 p.m. Catholic Bible study, MPR

Thursday

5-6 a.m. Prayer Warriors, sanctuary
7:15-7:45 a.m. Daily Mass, BSR
11-11:30 a.m. Redeployment brief (or online), Conf. Rm.
Noon-1 p.m. AA, Conf. Rm.
5:30-6 p.m. Rosary/individual devotion, BSR
5:30-6:30 p.m. Intercessory prayer/Prayer Warriors, MPR
6-6:30 p.m. Daily Mass, BSR
6-7 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous for the Faith Community, Conf. Rm.
6:30-8 p.m. Leadership and Authentic Manhood, MPR
7:30-9 p.m. Gospel choir/praise team rehearsal, sanctuary
8-9:30 p.m. Theology On Tap, Priest's office/Memorial Plaza
9-11 p.m. Catholic choir practice, sanctuary

Friday

5-6 a.m. Prayer Warriors, sanctuary

7:15-7:45 a.m. Daily Mass, BSR
11-11:30 a.m. Redeployment brief (or online), Conf. Rm.
1-2:30 p.m. Jumma (Islamic) prayer, MPR
5:30-6 p.m. Rosary/individual devotion, BSR
5:30-6:30 p.m. Intercessory prayer/Prayer Warriors, Conf. Rm.
6-6:30 p.m. Daily Mass, BSR
6:30-7:30 p.m. Shabbat service, MPR
7:30-8:30 p.m. Shabbat meal, Conf. Rm.
7:30-8:30 p.m. Gospel Joy Night, sanctuary
9-11 p.m. Gospel service dance team rehearsal, sanctuary

Saturday

5-6 a.m. Prayer Warriors, sanctuary
10 a.m. to noon Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath Lesson Studies, MPR
11-11:30 a.m. Redeployment brief (or online), Conf. Rm.
1-3 p.m. Army chaplain (Pastoral care-open for walk-ins), Conf. Rm.
3:30-4:30 p.m. Catholic choir practice, sanctuary
6-7 p.m. Jewish study, Conf. Rm.
6-7:30 p.m. Contemporary band/worship practice, sanctuary
6:30-7:30 p.m. Discipleship class, MPR
7:30-9 p.m. Contemporary worship service, sanctuary
7:30-8:30 p.m. Buddhist Learning Group, MPR
8:30-9:30 p.m. Wiccan/Earth Based Group, MPR
10-10:30 p.m. Catholic Mass, sanctuary
Sunday
5-6 a.m. Prayer Warriors, sanctuary
8-9 a.m. Catholic

Mass, sanctuary
8-9 a.m. Sunday school (Basic Questions), Conf. Rm.
9-9:45 a.m. Contemporary band/worship practice, sanctuary
9-10:30 a.m. Orthodox service, MPR
9:45-10:45 a.m. Contemporary worship service, sanctuary
9:45-11 a.m. General Protestant service, CAOC second floor Conf. Rm.
11 a.m. to noon Catholic Mass, CAOC second floor Conf. Rm.
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Church of Christ service, sanctuary
1:30-3 p.m. LDS service/Sunday school, sanctuary
1:30-2:30 p.m. Liturgical service (U.K. Chaplain), MPR
3-4 p.m. Islamic studies, Conf. Rm.
3:30 p.m. Smoothies With The Priest, Beanery
4-5 p.m. Traditional Protestant service, sanctuary
5:15-5:45 p.m. Catholic reconciliation, Priest's office
6-7 p.m. Catholic Mass, sanctuary
7:30-9 p.m. Gospel Worship service, sanctuary
8-9 p.m. AA, Conf. Rm.
9:30-11 p.m. Wiccan/Earth Based Group, MPR



UMUC class

Sign up now for WRTG101 - Introduction to Writing. Class will be held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 5-7 p.m. starting Monday and ending Nov. 14. The class fulfills the written communication credit for your Community College of the Air Force degree and freshman English for associates or bachelors degrees.

Contact your UMUC representative, Susan, to schedule your English placement test or register. Call 437-0077, e-mail: auab.umuc@auab.afcent.af.mil or stop by the Blachford-Preston Complex Education Center.

Professional development

The Top-4 is hosting an eight-week Airman Professional Development Class. The classes will be held at the Airman Readiness Center starting Oct. 1. To best serve our Airmen and to maximize participation, a different topic will be taught every Wednesday at 8 a.m. and Friday at 7 p.m. The classes provided are designed to prepare enlisted and junior officers for future promotions and to enhance their supervisory skills. For more information, call Master Sgt. Darren Alder at 437-2671.

Hispanic Heritage month

The theme for Hispanic Heritage Month is "Getting Involved – Our families, Our community, our nation." Sept. 15 marked the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month and it continues until Oct. 15. The events planned aim to educate the base populace on the historical and current contributions that Hispanic Americans have made to our country and to our military.

Together with the 379th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron, the Hispanic Heritage Committee has organized events and activities throughout this timeframe.

- Oct. 9 at noon – Loteria at the pool during bingo session.

- Oct 11 from 7:30 p.m. to midnight – Dance performance by members of Salsa class and Hispanic Heritage Month committee. Dance contest at the Memorial Plaza. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has donated \$50, \$30 and \$15 gift certificates for prizes.

- Oct 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Luncheon at the Blachford-Preston Complex fellowship hall.

Desert 5 scholarship

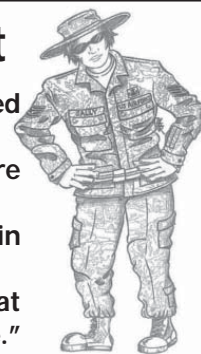
If you are currently enrolled in classes, you may be eligible for a one-time grant of \$100 provided by the Desert 5. This grant, open to select E-1 through E-5 members, is structured to provide assistance for enlisted members in dealing with the financial burden of a college degree program. For more information, visit the Desert 5 website located on the intranet.

Call for Victim Advocates

Are you a trained Victim Advocate? Interested in volunteering during your Air and Space Expeditionary Force cycle? Obtain your 40-hour certificate from your home station's Sexual Assault Prevention and

Safety Snapshot

"Wait, that's not how I learned that back home
Never mind procedures, you are in a combat zone
Wow, that's fast! I'm sure to win Airman of the Year
Uh-oh, better call the boss, that dent is not supposed to be here."



U.S. AIR FORCE GRAPHIC BY TECH. SGT. JOHN SABROWSKI

Response Program Office and contact the 379 AEW Sexual Assault Response Coordinator on how to volunteer here.

For more information, contact Capt. Carrie Baker at 379aew.sarc@auab.centaf.af.mil or call 437-7500.

Travel card information

The Government Travel Card is changing from Bank of America to Citibank. Card distribution began last month. In order to ensure AEF 5/6 deployers would have the new GTC card upon redeployment, they were shipped to the finance office. To facilitate distribution, a Citibank GTC listing has been posted on the 379th Expeditionary Comptroller Squadron home page. All AEF 5/6 deployers need to review the listing for their name; if found, please visit the finance cashier cage to sign for and pick up your new card.

If you do not find your name on the list, contact the finance office who will confirm it was not sent to another location and provide guidance to ensure receipt of your new card. Permanent party, 179-day and 365-day deployers need to call the 1-800 number on their BoA GTC to update their mailing address to ensure your card is mailed here. For more information, call 437-8686 or visit the 379 ECPTS home page <https://intranet.auab.afcent.af.mil/organizations/379ecpts/Index.html>

Voting assistance

If you would like to vote in the upcoming election and have not registered and/or requested your absentee ballot, please do so as soon as possible. If you have received your absentee ballot, carefully read the instructions, complete it and return it.

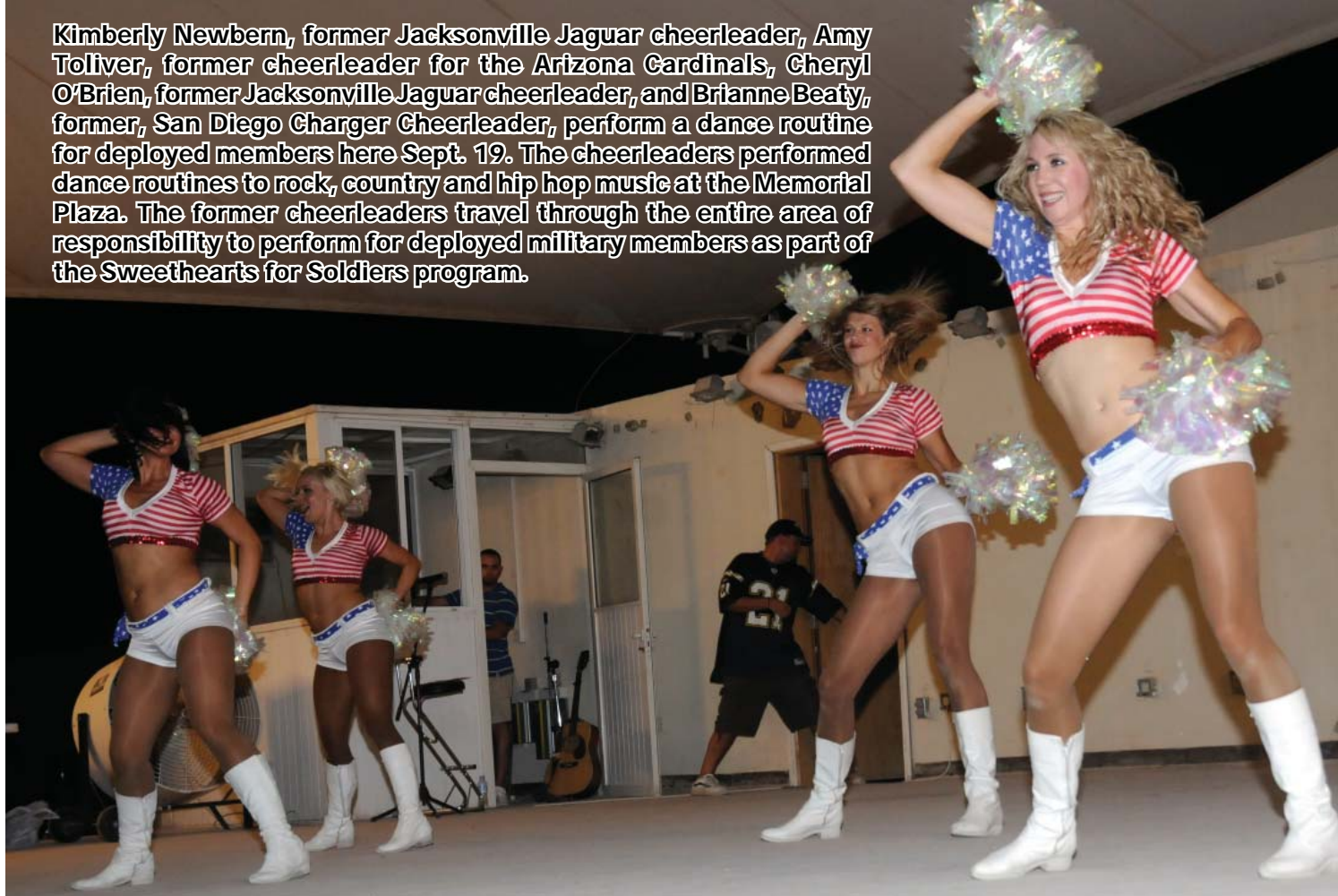
For assistance visit www.fvap.gov or contact Master Sgt. Mike Wilson at 436-0130/437-0415 or Maj. John Hancock at 436-0112.



For a list of menus, movies and more, visit the 379th EFSS internal homepage or watch your e-mail for the Desert Eagle Dispatch.

<https://intranet/organizations/379ESVS/marketing.htm>

Kimberly Newbern, former Jacksonville Jaguar cheerleader, Amy Toliver, former cheerleader for the Arizona Cardinals, Cheryl O'Brien, former Jacksonville Jaguar cheerleader, and Brianne Beaty, former, San Diego Charger Cheerleader, perform a dance routine for deployed members here Sept. 19. The cheerleaders performed dance routines to rock, country and hip hop music at the Memorial Plaza. The former cheerleaders travel through the entire area of responsibility to perform for deployed military members as part of the Sweethearts for Soldiers program.



Ms. Newbern signs an autograph for a fan after the Sweethearts for Soldiers show. About 350 people attended the performance Sept. 19. (U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Darnell T. Cannady)

